

Applicant: John Bergman
Application No.: 10/531,537
Response to Office action mailed Jan. 6, 2009
Respond filed April 2, 2009

Remarks

Claims 24–29, 31–32, 34, and 49–53 remain pending in the application. In the Office action dated Jan. 6, 2009, claims 49–50 were rejected as being indefinite. Claims 24–29, 34–38, 41, 47, and 48 were rejected as anticipated by Freitag et al. (US 6,485,692) and claims 30–33, 39–40, and 42–46 were rejected as obvious over Freitag et al. in view of Sakai et al. (US 4,987,852) and further in view of Roitto et al. (EP 0916765).

The courtesy extended to applicant's counsel in the telephone interview conducted Mar. 31, 2009, by Examiners Yun Qian, and Jerry Lorengo is acknowledged with appreciation. During the interview Examiner Lorengo indicated the importance of limiting the claims to distinguish over mixing technology in general. During the interview claim 24 and proposed claim 51 were discussed. Applicant pointed out how claim 51 was limited to the employment of five pressure screens, four static mixers and one dynamic mixer, thus limiting the claim to a system used to manufacture a paper coating. It was agreed that claim 51 distinguished over the art of record and was limited to paper coatings. However, the examiner indicated a further search would be necessary. With respect to claim 24, the examiner indicated that the amendment language including a pressure screen helped to distinguish over non-paper coating art.

Claim 24 has been further amended from that proposed in the interview to clarify the claim language to explicitly claim both combining components in parallel and in series. Claims 25–29, 31–32, and 34 have been amended for clarity and conform with the amended language of claim 24.

Claim 49 claims the series arrangement shown in FIG. 1 and claim 50 claims the parallel arrangement shown in FIG. 3. Claims 49 and 50 have been amended to include static mixers, and three or four pressure screens

Claim 51 claims the series arrangement shown in FIG. 1, claiming forming a fourth mixture which is supplied to a coating station for application to a paper or board web. The fourth mixture is composed of at least three pigments which are each passed through a pressure screen and an optical brightening agent and water which are all mixed in pressurized

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supplied to a pressure screen and then to a coating station for application to a paper or board web.

As applicant, sets forth in this specification ¶[0012] has invented a process and apparatus which combines the advantages of preparing a paper coating using either a batch process or a continuous process, by developing a system where the order of combining components is controlled, and wherein more complicated paper coating recipes can be made in a continuous process.

Freitag et al. (US 6,485,692) discloses an apparatus for creating large libraries of organic molecules. Mixing takes place by shaking or rotating the entire apparatus.

Sakai (4,987,852) discloses a system for de-aerating paint

Roitto et al(EP 0916765) is generally related to the technology at hand and discloses using a pressure screen and a vibratory screen for removing particles from a coating mix.

The amended claims are limited to method or apparatus for forming a paper coating for paperboard web, and set forth on arrangement of components or steps for combining individual components not suggested by the art of record.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.
Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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